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DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1942

To the Chairman and Members,
Dawlish U.D.C.

This Report, the fourth of the War Period, is drawn up in accordance with instructions contained in a Ministry of Health Circular which directs that it shall be on lines similar to previous War-time Reports and confined to essential matters affecting Public Health or arising out of the War.

In spite of the War, with all its restrictions and short supplies of almost everything, the general health of the people throughout the year was remarkably good and continues to be. This is especially so as regards the Children but what with Canteen Dinners, almost unlimited milk and Lord Woolton's excellent bread it is hardly to be wondered at.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

In all, 27 cases, a normal number. The only approach to an epidemic were the Scarlet Fever cases, most of which occurred in the August holidays. In addition to the 5 clinical cases of Diphtheria, 12 carriers of the disease were discovered, all but one being of the nasal type.

DISEASE	CASES	HOSPITAL	DEATHS
Scarlet Fever	16	16	0
Diphtheria	5	5	0
Pneumonia	4	0	0
Measles	1	0	0
Ophthalmia	1	1	0

TUBERCULOSIS

Five cases were notified during the year, 3 were lung cases, all were female. There are about 51 Tuberculous persons living in the District, one more than the year before. There were 7 deaths from the disease, 3 male and 4 female. Five were lung cases.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Efforts to keep alive the interest of Parents in this important matter have met with a fair amount of success. It will be appreciated that as almost all children of school age were completed in the big drive of 1941, those done last year were mainly under 5. This being the most susceptible age is the best time to do them. The numbers for the year were:- Under 5 - 77; Over 5 - 41; giving percentages of 63 and 98 respectively. The process still continues, sessions being held monthly.

THE EVACUEES

As was to be expected, their numbers have dropped still further. The year commenced with a total of about 800 (men, women and children), which was the remainder of the 3,200 which were in billets in January, 1941. On December 31st, 1942, the number was approximately 300, which included about 200 children.

THE HOSTELS FOR EVACUEES

Owing to the rapid reduction in the number of Evacuees, and also to their remarkably good health, it was soon obvious that Swineshead Cottage, requisitioned and equipped in 1st May, 1941, for sick and delicate children was not needed. It ceased to function in 14th November, 1942.

The Contagious Skin Diseases Hostel at "Sunrise" taking Patients from Dawlish and Teignmouth, which was opened in April, proved very beneficial. Practically all the cases were Scabies.

The numbers up to 31st December were:-

	Dawlish	Teignmouth	Total
In-Patients	36	35	71
Out-Patients	107(24 Adults)	109(24 Adults)	216

Though still functioning, the number of Patients has fallen so low that the question of its continued existence will soon arise.

W. H. SCOTT.

Medical Officer of Health.

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VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION 7397 (a decrease of 500)

		M	F	
LIVE BIRTHS	(Legitimate	56	33)	94 - Rate of 12.7 per 1000.
	(Illegitimate	2	3)	

Average rate for last 10 years - 9.5
England and Wales rate -15.8

STILL BIRTHS	(Legitimate)	2	2	- Rate of 20.8 per 1000 total births.

DEATHS		53	60)	113 - Rate of 15.2 per 1000

England and Wales Death Rate - 11.6

INFANT MORTALITY (under 1 year) -		2	1)	3 - Rate of 31.9 per 1000 live births
	(1 illegitimate)			

England and Wales Rate - 49

MATERNAL MORTALITY (child birth)		0	1)	1 - Rate of 10.4 per 1000 birth (live and still)

England and Wales Rate - 2.01

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